PRESIDENT: A question arose yesterday with regard to an honourable member's query regarding a newspaper named "Bharathi." I understand that on account of some internal disequilibrium the paper was not published on Thursday but was published on Saturday and a note to that effect appeared in the "Bharathi" on July 24th. Although the paper is dated Thursday it was issued only on Saturday with an apology or explanation for such late issue. That is how the proceedings of the House came to be inserted in that paper.

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU: ഞാൻ പന്ത്രണ്ടു വർഷകാലം ഒരു പത്രാധിപരായിരുന്നവനാണ്. പത്രം നടത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾഅതായത്, പണത്തിന്റെ വിഷമം, പ്രസ്സിന്റെ തകരാറ് മുതലായവകൊണ്ടു ചിലപ്പോൾ പത്രം നിശ്ചിതദിവസത്തിൽ പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചില്ലാ എന്നുവന്നേക്കാം. എങ്കിലും വ്യാഴാഴ്ചതോറും പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു് എന്നു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു് പേപ്പർ അടിച്ചതിനുശേഷം ഉള്ള ഒരു ന്യൂസ് അതിൽ പബ്ലിഷ് ചെയ്യുന്നതു വിഹിതമാണോ എന്നുള്ളതാണ് എന്റെ ചോദ്യം.

PRESIDENT: Order. Order. Neither the House nor the Chair is called upon to sit in judgment over the journalistic behaviour or the contents of the "Bharathi". All that I am concerned with is to point out that the suggestion that was made before the House that it was psychologically impossible for a paper to publish, ordinary human conditions subsisting, notes of the debate of the 11th on the 9th. Now I will ask the Secretary to read the announcement of the paper regarding this.

(The following announcement in the "Bharathi" was read by the Secretary at the direction of the President).

"ചില പ്രത്യേക അസൌകര്യങ്ങളാൽ പത്രം ശനിയാഴ്ച മാത്രമേ പ്രസിദ്ധികരിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചുള്ളൂ"

PRESIDENT: Whatever the പ്രത്യേക അസൌകര്യം or അസന്ദർഭം it is a matter for the readers of the paper and the editor. Therefore I don't think we are concerned with it here.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND No. VI—RAILWAYS—Rs. 21,500.

MR. R. RAMA VARIER: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 21,500, under Demand VI—Railways.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: Sir, I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,111 for Quilon—Trivandrum Railways by Rs. 10 to speak on the necessity of improving the conditions in the third class compartments.

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It was said that there was no profit from the working of this Department during the last ten years. Now that, Government have been able to derive a profit from the working of railway within the State, the travelling public expect that the Government will do something for increasing the comforts of the third class passengers. Sir, I have to state that conditions in the third class compartments are rather very unsatisfactory.

PRESIDENT : Is the honourable member speaking of the whole South Indian Railway system or the portion of it between Shencotta and Trivandrum ?

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : Sir, if we take the conditions obtaining in the Trivandrum Express and in the Shuttle trains running between Quilon and Trivandrum, we will see that in the Express trains the compartments are kept clean and washed daily while the shuttle trains are not at all washed. The railway authorities let in beggars freely in the shuttle trains. I have noticed that several of them are lepers carrying contagion. So, I have to submit that Government should do something for improving the comforts of the third class passengers.

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : Sir, the Travancore Railways have not been working at a regular loss for the past ten years as pointed out by the honourable member. The loss was only during the last five years and there were years of profit before that period.

As regards the convenience to be given to the third class passengers, the matter does not rest entirely with this Government. This will be placed before the Railway Board, for consideration.

PRESIDENT : There has been a fairly extensive agitation on this matter and the Government of India during the last year and this year have taken some steps to impress upon the Railway administration and the Board the necessity for improved conditions of travel of third class passengers who, after all, are the persons who bring in most revenue to the Railway.

There is much more to complain than the want of amenities for the third class passengers. The almost intolerable slowness of many of the shuttle trains is a matter of notoriety. These matters are being periodically brought by our representatives to the notice of the Railway authorities and it is hoped that they will improve. If they do not improve, I am afraid that what may be called the passenger traffic in the Railway will suffer grave diminution and the place will have to be taken up by other agencies and other forms of travel.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : Sir, I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 21,500 under Demand VI—Railway was put and carried. The grant was made.

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